

# Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on  
Wildlife & Fisheries

July 10, 2014



# Proposed Orders

- NRC – For Information
  - Deer Management Assistance Permits (WCO Amendment No. 10 of 2014)
  - Waterfowl and Other Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations for 2014 – 2015 (WCO Amendment No. 12 of 2014)



# Proposed Orders

- NRC – For Action
  - Migratory Game Bird Regulations; Early Seasons, Managed Waterfowl Area Regulations (WCO Amendment No. 8 of 2014)
  - Antlerless Deer License Quotas 2014-2016 (WCO Amendment No. 9 of 2014)
  - Fall Turkey Management Unit Technical Change (WCO Amendment No. 11 of 2014)



# NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
- Wildlife Division Update
  - Barbara Avers on Hunting Regulations for Waterfowl Season Dates
  - Brent Rudolph on APR Assessment Update



# Fisheries Division Update



# Department of Natural Resources

# Fisheries Conservation Order (FCO) Status

- Almost complete
  - Final edits and review
  - Ready for NRC preview in August
- August Meeting
  - No Order changes
  - Use FCO in September





# September proposals for NRC review

- 202: Gear Restrictions
  - Snagging
- 204: Spawning Closures
  - Clean-up
- 206: Coolwater regulations
  - Remove restrictive regulations
- 240: Sturgeon regulations
  - Clean-up



# October proposals for NRC review

- 200: Trout/Salmon regulations
  - Lake trout, 10 fish BKT streams, coaster stream protection
- 210: Trout streams
  - Adding streams
- 245: Fish disease
  - VHSv update
- 215: Special regulations
  - Black bass and northern pike





# Bass Regulations

- MI BASS Nation proposal
- Internal Workgroup
- July Public Meetings
- Mail and online survey

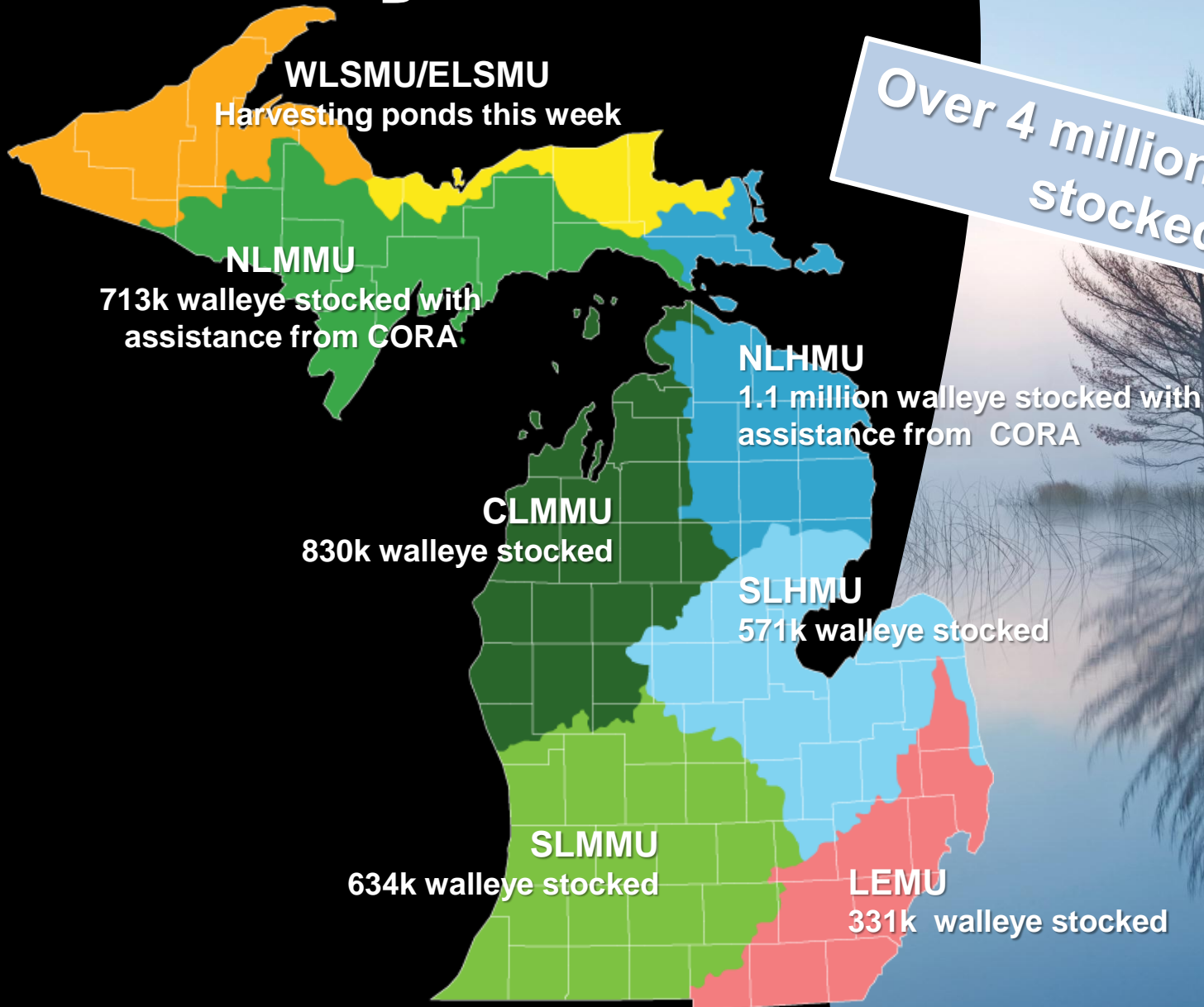


# Lake Trout Regulations

- Lakes Huron and Michigan
  - Simplify while staying within shared allocations
- Lake Huron – one MSL and season – discussed with CAC
- Public meetings for Lake MI in July and August



# 2014 Walleye Pond Efforts





# Two New State Records

**Brown Bullhead:** 3.77 lbs, 17.5 inches  
caught bowfishing, Alcona Pond

**Black Buffalo:** 41.24 lbs, 38.25 inches  
caught bowfishing, Bear Lake, Muskegon  
County



# Thank you!

[www.michigan.gov/fishing](http://www.michigan.gov/fishing)



65 lb carp! – released  
from Muskegon Lake





# Wildlife Chief Update

Russ Mason, Chief  
Wildlife Division  
July 10, 2014



# Update

- UP Habitat Workgroup
- Wildlife Habitat Grants
- Co-op Position with MUCC



# Thank You

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[www.michigan.gov/wildlife](http://www.michigan.gov/wildlife)



# Hunting Regulations for Regular Waterfowl Season Dates



Barbara Avers  
Waterfowl and Wetland Specialist  
Wildlife Division  
July 10, 2014



# Regulations Schedule

## Early Seasons

- February/March
  - Mississippi Flyway Council
  - Citizen's Waterfowl Advisory Committee (CWAC)
- June
  - Regulations for information at NRC
  - USFWS Regulations Committee
    - Set early season framework
- July
  - Regulations for action at NRC Meeting
  - Early Season Selections Due to USFWS

## Regular Seasons

- July
  - Regulations for information at NRC
  - Mississippi Flyway Council
  - USFWS Regulations Committee
    - Set late season framework
- August
  - CWAC Meeting
  - Regulations for action at NRC
  - Regular Season Selections Due to USFWS





# Regulations Schedule

## Early Seasons

- February/March
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## Regular Seasons

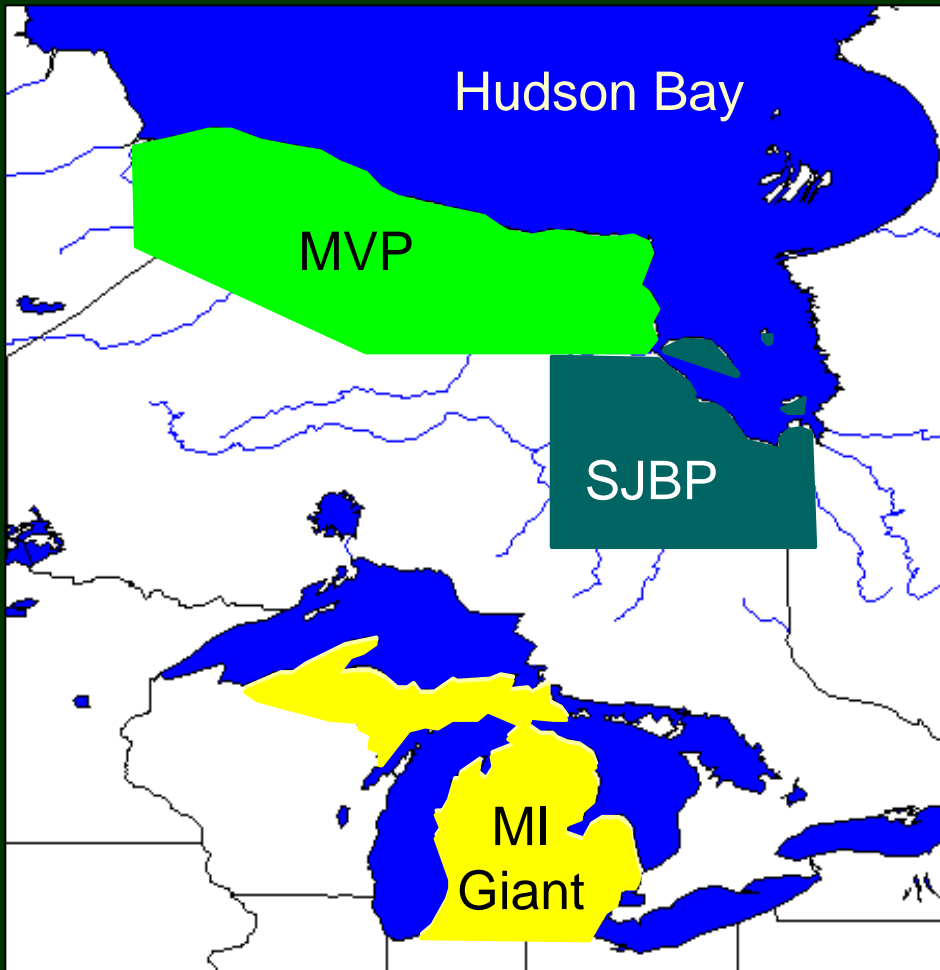
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# Canada Goose Status and Regulation Considerations



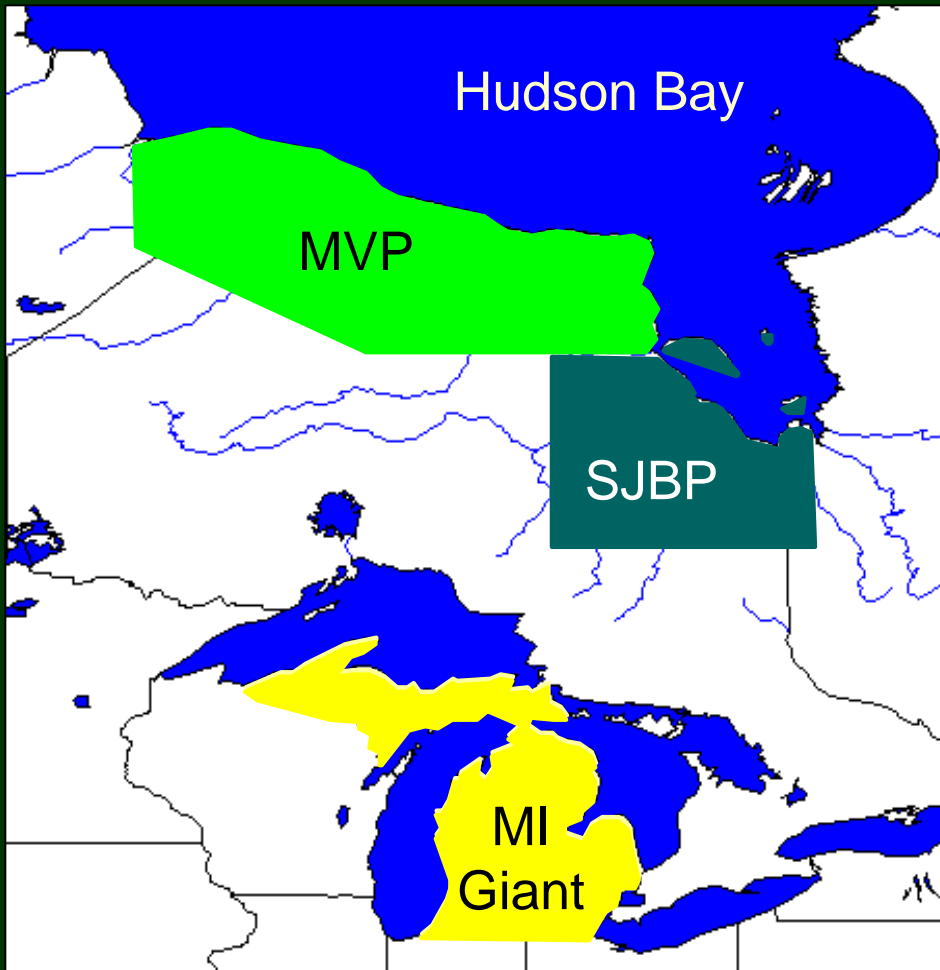
# Canada Goose Breeding Ranges



- Mississippi Valley Population (MVP)
- Southern James Bay Population (SJBP)
- Michigan Giant Population (MI Giant)

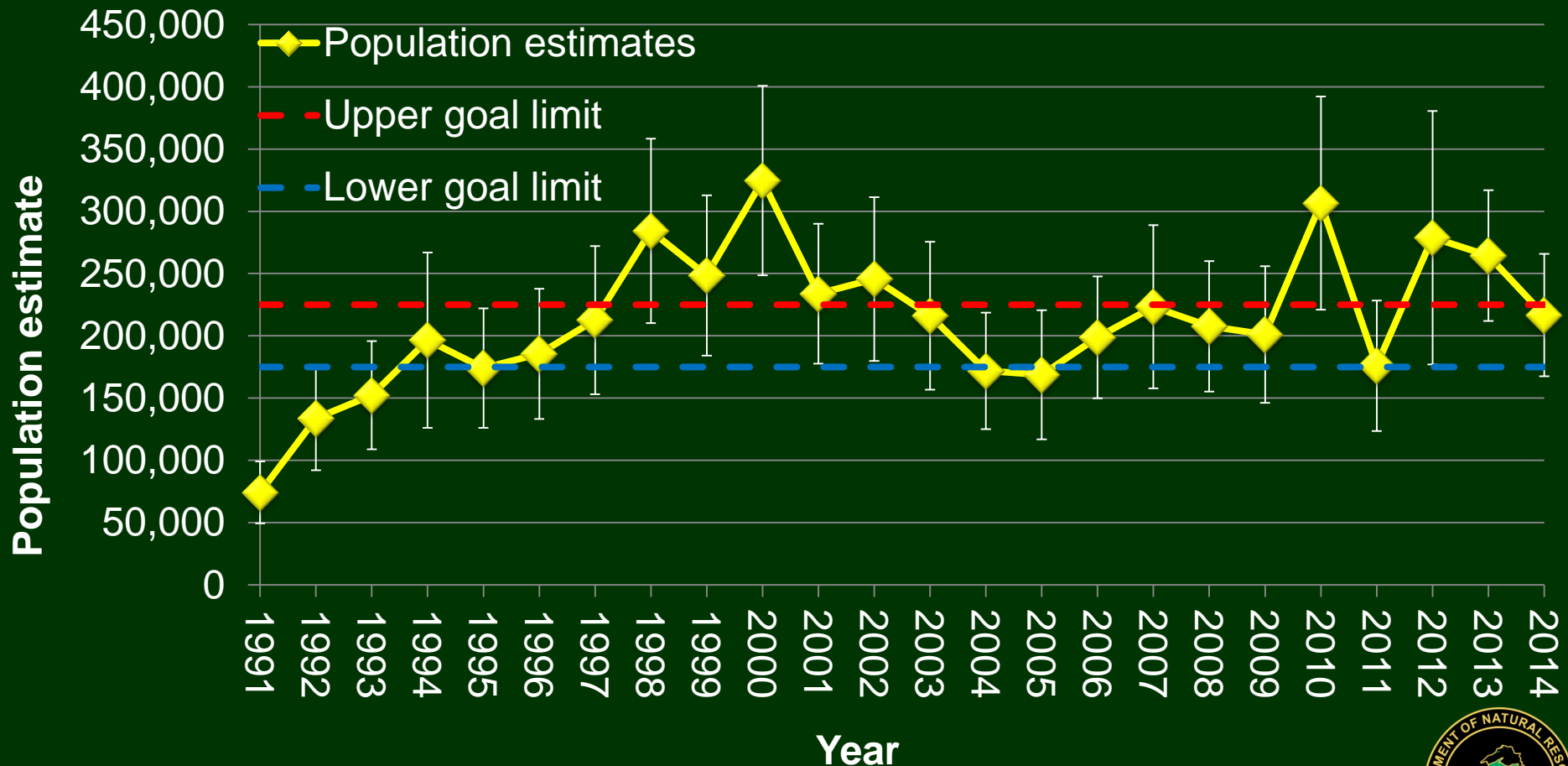


# 2013-2014 Canada Goose Population Change



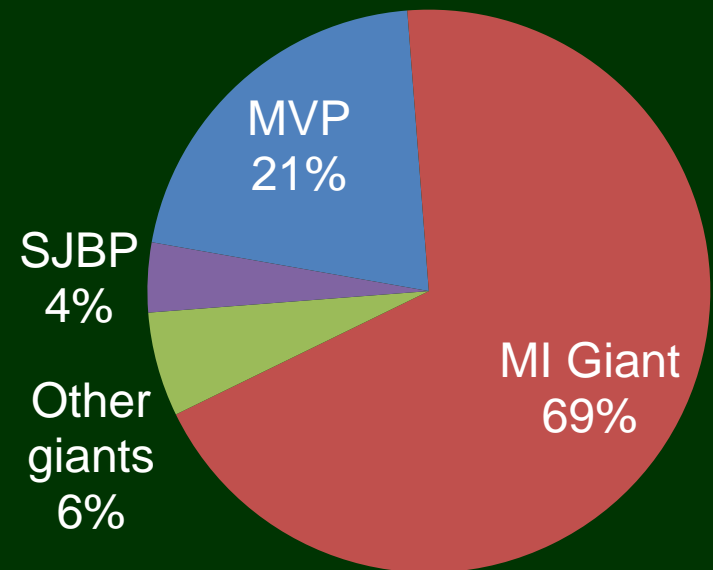
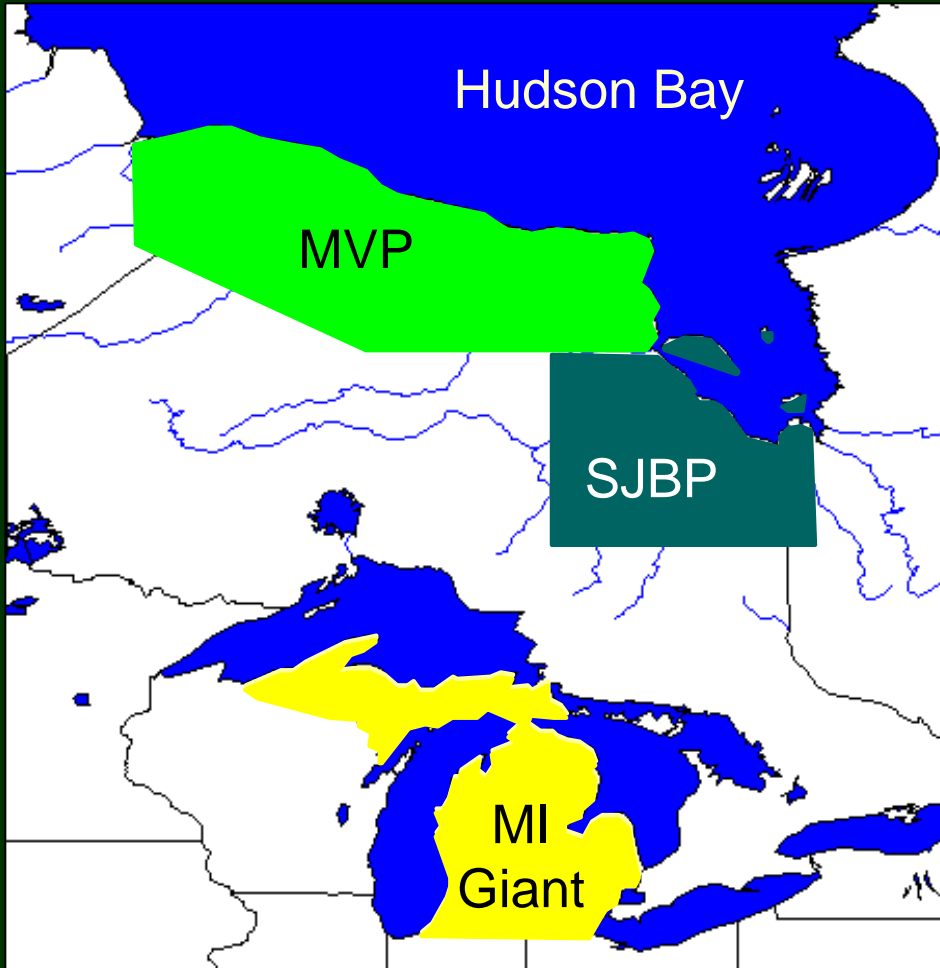
- MVP Stable
- SJB Stable
- MI Giant Down

# Michigan Canada Goose Population Estimates, 1991-2014





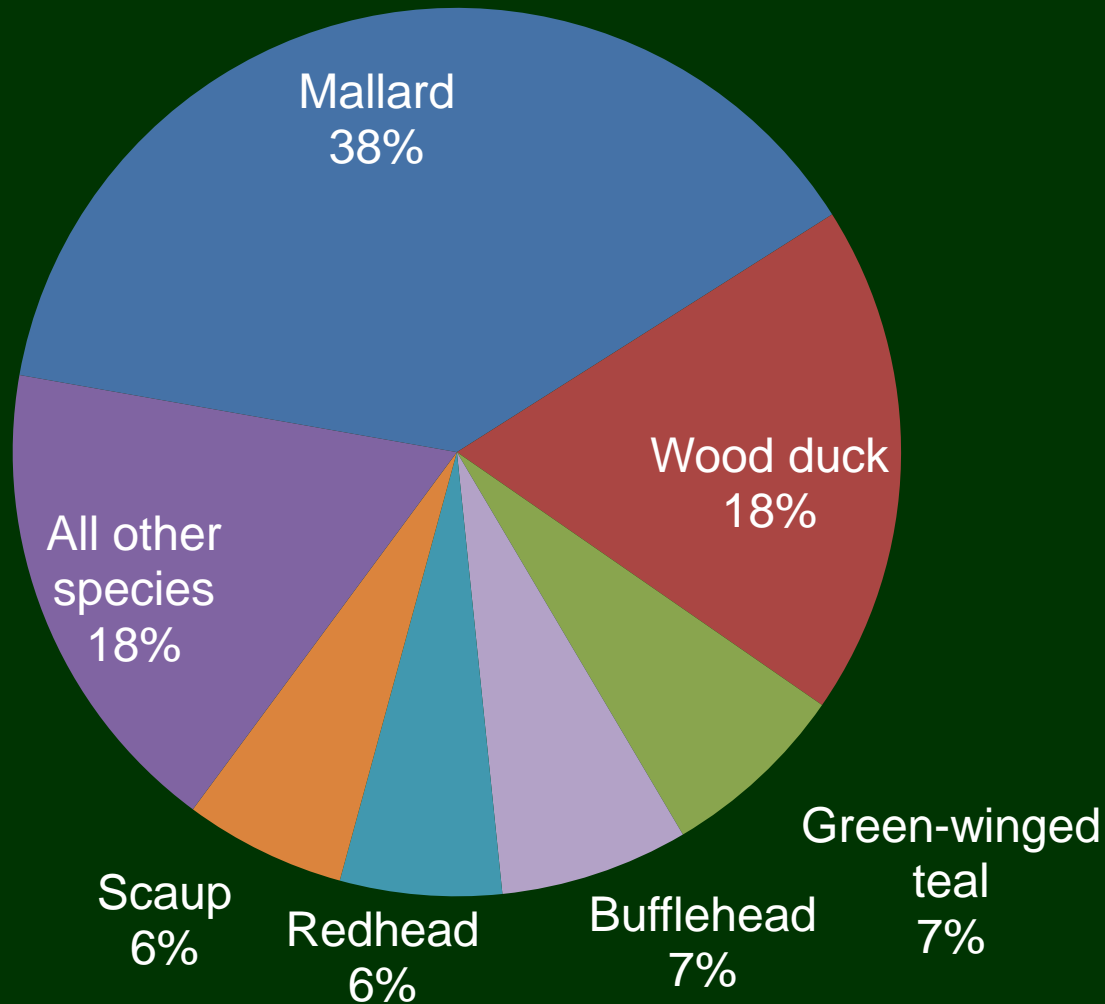
# Michigan Canada Goose Harvest Composition



# Duck Status and Regulation Considerations



# Michigan Duck Harvest 2012-2013



# Habitat Conditions

- Waterfowl habitat conditions during waterfowl breeding population and habitat survey
- Generally very late wet spring across traditional survey area
- Habitat conditions mostly improved or similar to last year
- Mostly good to excellent throughout prairies and parklands



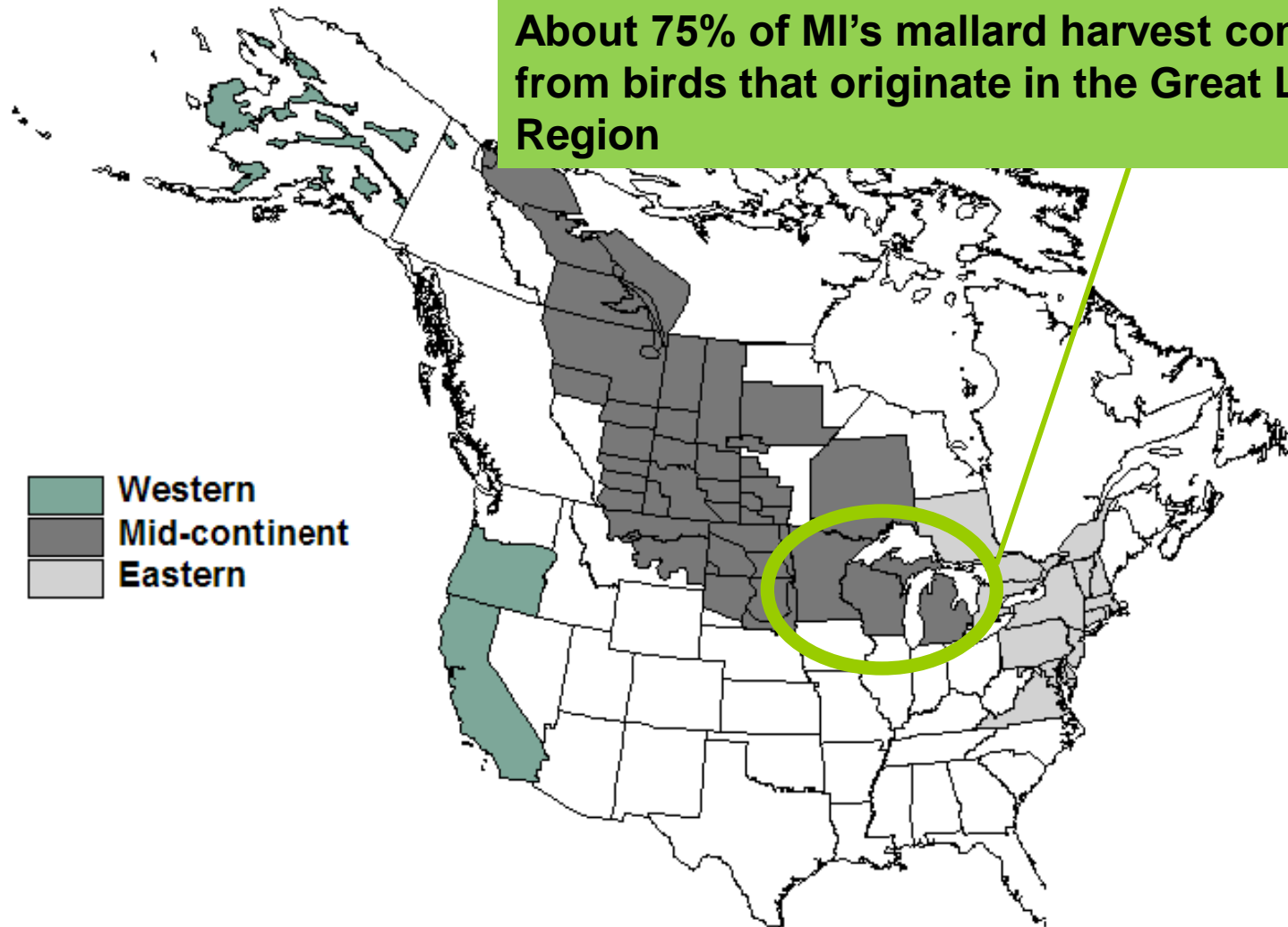
# Continental Duck Population Status

- Waterfowl breeding population and habitat survey
- Increased or similar population estimates for all species compared to 2013
  - Total ducks up 8%
  - Mallards similar
  - Canvasbacks similar
  - Scaup similar
  - Pintails similar





# Michigan Mallard Harvest



# Michigan Mallard & Wetland Estimates

- 2014 Mallard estimate approximately 230,000
  - Similar to 2013
  - Stable in last decade
  - Below 1990's population estimates
- 2014 Wetland Count
  - Up 11% from 2013
  - Up 19% from LTA



# Mallard Hen Daily Limit

- Align with USFWS frameworks
  - Increase from 1 to 2
- Recent research suggests mallard harvest sustainable with increase in bag limit
- Maintain monitoring to evaluate survival and abundance of mallards



# What Can We Expect?

- Likely no major changes in season length and bag limits
- Likely liberal season (60 days, 6 ducks)
- Similar opportunity for canvasbacks, scaup, and pintails



# Processes to Complete

- Mid-July
  - Consider additional waterfowl population status information





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- July 24-25
  - MFC provides framework recommendations to USFWS



# Processes to Complete

- Mid-July
  - Consider additional waterfowl population status information
- July 24-25
  - MFC provides framework recommendations to USFWS
- July 30-31
  - Frameworks set by USFWS Regulation Committee



# Processes to Complete

- August 9
  - Meet with CWAC to discuss options for state waterfowl regulations



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- August 9
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- No later than August 11
  - Late memo to NRC



# Processes to Complete

- August 9
  - Meet with CWAC to discuss options for state waterfowl regulations
- No later than August 11
  - Late memo to NRC
- August 14
  - Provide Regular Season recommendations to NRC for action on:
    - Bag limits
    - Season dates





# Thank You

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[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)



# Antler Point Restriction (APR) Assessment Update



Brent Rudolph  
Deer and Elk Program Leader  
Wildlife Division  
July 10, 2014



# APR Assessment: Overview

- Recap intended approach
- Identify proposed evaluators
- Review likely timeline for results



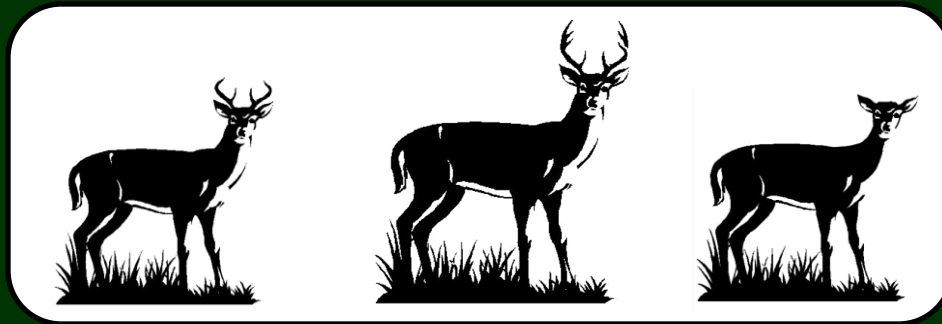
# APR Assessment: Intended Approach

- Solicitation ~March – May 2014
- Review and selection ~June 2014
  - One or more impacts
  - Demonstrate sufficient expertise/independence
- Report and presentation ~February 2015
  - Pursue peer-reviewed outlet for consolidated report



# APR: Assessment of Impacts

- Population impacts
- Disease risk
- Hunter participation
- Hunting-related economic impacts
- Crop & silvicultural damage





# APR: Assessment of Impacts

- Population impacts
- Disease risk
- Hunter participation
- Hunting-related economic impacts
- Crop & silvicultural damage
  - Most difficult to assess without considerable additional data collection



# APR: Population Impacts

Proposed evaluator:

- Dr. William Porter\*, Michigan State University
  - Boone & Crockett Chair of Wildlife Conservation, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
- Examine harvest age structure and trophy records
- Compare patterns to habitat suitability, harvest regulations, and hunter traditions

\* Component of longer-term Boone & Crockett Graduate Fellow project



# APR: Disease Risk

Proposed evaluator:

- Dr. Dan O'Brien, Michigan DNR
  - Wildlife Disease Lab
- Adapt bovine tuberculosis (TB) model\*
- Forecast TB prevalence and risk of establishment under various harvest rates and population age structure

\* Forecasting eradication of bovine tuberculosis in Michigan white-tailed deer. Ramsey, D.S.L., D.J. O'Brien, M.K. Cosgrove, B.A. Rudolph, A.B. Locher, and S.M. Schmitt. 2014. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 78:240–254.



# APR: Hunter Participation

Proposed evaluator:

- Dr. Richelle Winkler\*, Michigan Tech University
  - Natural Resources Demographer, Social Sciences Department and Environmental and Energy Policy Program
- Geographic analysis, controlling for age-period-cohort effects on hunting participation

\* Component of longer-term hunter recruitment and retention research project



# APR: Economic Impacts

- Department efforts currently underway to identify economic data needs and gaps
- Opportunities may emerge under this effort



# APR Assessment: Timeline

- Earliest likely reports: October 2015
- In some cases, initial insights may be validated by later work
- Timeline should consider multi-year regulations approach (currently establishing 2014 – 2016)





# Thank You

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[www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer)

